

# At Ephesus



BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES



It is always a joy to light the dedication candles on the Abbey Church's anniversary, September 9th. We hope and pray Ava may see one too.

## Dear Family, Friends and Benefactors,

We are bursting with news since you last heard from us in the early summer! We have hosted a priestly ordination, held our annual community retreat, were visited by the relic of St. Jude the Apostle, had three Solemn Professions, seven Investitures, three first professions, and the entrances of nine candidates at the Abbey and four at Ava. For the first time in our history, we are actually having to turn away vocations! Six applicants are now waiting until next year to enter, at which point, God willing, we will have more room.

That room will come with the completion of the construction of our daughter house in Ava. We are about halfway there, both with construction, and in paying the monthly bills that must needs accompany it! We have put our entire trust in God and His dear foster father, Saint Joseph, for this entire

Sr. Judith Marie of Ava prays before the relic of the arm of her patron, the Apostle St. Jude, on its visit to the Abbey Church, October 1st.



project, and will continue to do so for the next ten months, knowing that souls will be inspired with great generosity to bring this beautiful house of prayer to completion. As you read these words, we humbly ask you to consider what Our Lord might be asking you to contribute towards this worthy end. How pleased He is with those who support and assist His brides!

We hope you enjoy the many pictures of all our special events, along with a page of more "everyday" things. We have many talented artists and cartoonists in our monasteries, and so feature in this issue some drawings from one of our novices.

We close with a promise of prayer for each and every one of you, to whom we owe so much in the sustaining of our monastic life. May the Lord continue to provide for all your needs and show you His love, keeping you all always tucked close beneath the mantle of Our loving Mother.

In the Merciful Heart of her Son,  
*Mother Cecilia OSB*  
Mother Abbess Cecilia



New novices Sr. Rosaria (Our Lady of the Rosary) Sr. Antonea (St. Anthony of Padua) Sr. Ellassara (St. Lazarus) Sr. Pauline (St. Paul the Apostle) Sr. Alma (Our Lady of the Holy Family) Sr. Thomeissa (St. Thomas the Apostle) and Sr. Concetta (Immaculate Conception.)





Upper left: the professurae enter the sanctuary. Above: the prostration for the Litany of the Saints. Left: Sr. Thomeissa and Sr. Rosaria are congratulated by family and friends. Below left: Sr. Mary Petra greeted by her sister Anna.



*October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Solemn Profession of Vows of Sister MARTINA, SISTER MARY PETRA & SISTER VERONICA*



Special thanks to celebrant Bishop Finn, to Fraternity priests and seminarians Fr. Charles Van Vliet (Sr. Rosaria's pastor) Fr. Matthew McCarthy (Sr. Martina's pastor) Fr. Joseph Dalimata (Sr. Alma's brother) Steven Kalinowski (Sr. Mary Petra's brother) and also to Master of Ceremonies, Fr. Charles Peirano (Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau.)





New Solemnly professed Sr. Veronica, Sr. Martina and Sr. Mary Petra with Mother Abbess.  
Upper right: Sr. Ellassara prepares to receive the habit while Sr. Mary Petra's sister,  
Sr. Ioanna Marie, FLM prays in the background. Right: Sr. Concetta and Sr. Antonia



*Investitures of Sr. Antonia, Sr. Concetta, Sr. Alma,  
Sr. Rosaria, Sr. Pauline, Sr. Ellassara & Sr. Thomeissa*







Sr. Lillien shows her vow chart to Mother Abbess



Chanting the Suscipe



Professions are among the rare occasions when Mother Abbess uses her crozier.

# First Professions

OF SR. CONSUELA, SR. MARIE THERESE & SR. LILLIEN  
OCTOBER 13TH, 2023



The Sisters share a lighter moment with celebrant Bishop Conley after the ceremony  
Special thanks to photographer Kimberly Ball.





# ORDINATION

OF FATHER SEELOS MARIA LUNSFORD, FSSR  
SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2023



The Sons of the Most Holy Redeemer gathered from across three continents for the ordination and first Mass of a long time friend of the community, Fr. Seeelos.



Both communities gathered for a common recreation.





Sr. Natalie (now Sr. Alma) weeds the lilies.

Sr. Philippa makes a good roost.

Sr. Mary Elizabeth with our latest barnyard addition, "Mac."



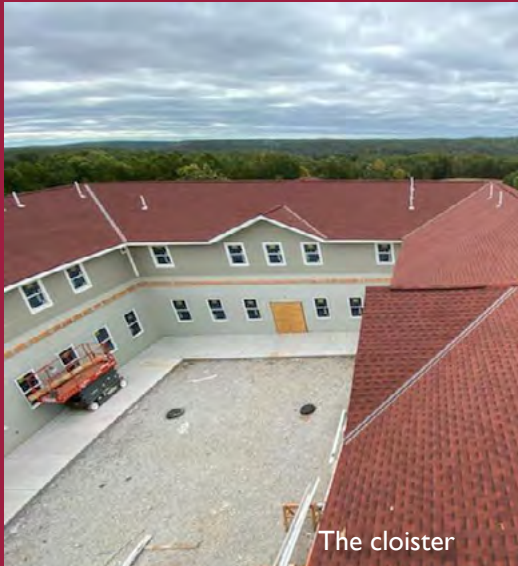
Sr. Maria Battista cheerfully sees to the flower bed in Ava.



Ava Sisters off to work







The cloister



A dry walled cell



The bell and cross are hoisted into position in and on the bell tower.



# AVA CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Bishop Rice blessed the bells at Ava on September 16th. They were christened Maria, Cecilia, Jacobus and Joachim.



We are making progress, but have a ways to go! One really easy way you can help is to stream our music as background music, travel music, as you're falling asleep and even throughout the night! Our music is on all of the major streaming platforms: Spotify, Pandora, and more!





BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES  
8005 NW 316TH STREET  
GOWER, MO 64454



Sisters gather around our incorruptible following the Solemn Professions and Investitures ceremony.

In TRIAL OR  
difficulty  
I have RECOURSE TO  
MOTHER MARY,  
whose glance alone is  
enough to dissipate  
EVERY fear.

*-Saint Therese  
of Lisieux*

